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AMARAVATI, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019

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NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

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**PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
(MDL.I)**

VILLAGE SECRETARIAT SYSTEM IN GRAM PANCHAYATS IN THE STATE.

**[G.O.Ms.No.110, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (MDL-I),
19th July, 2019.]**

Read the following :-

1. G.O.Ms.No.1, Agriculture & Cooperation (FP-II) Department, dated. 01.01.2008.
2. G.O.Ms.No.105, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries(AH-I) Department, dated.31.12.2007
3. G.O.Ms.No.106, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries(AH-I) Department, dated.31.12.2007
4. G.O.Ms.No.571, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (RD-III) Department, dated.26.12.2007.
5. G.O.Ms.No.569,Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (RWS-I) Department date:22.12.2007, Drinking Water (RWS)
6. G.O.Ms.No.2, School Education (Prog-I) Department, dated.03.01.2008,
7. G.O.Ms.No.324, Health Medical and Family Welfare(F1) Department, dated.27.09.2007.
8. G.O.Ms.No.138, Social Welfare (SW.Ser.I) Department, dated.24.12.2007,
9. G.O.Ms.No.35, Backward Classes Welfare(B2) Department, Dated.12.04.2007.
10. G.O.Ms.No.41,Women Development, Child Welfare & Disabled Welfare(JJ) Department, dated.19.11.2008.

11. G.O.Ms.No.104,Panchayat Raj &Rural Development (MDL-I) Department, dated. 22.06.2019.
12. From the Commissioner, PR&RD, Tadepalli, Guntur Dist. E-File No.PRR02-14021(46)/44/2019-RWS SEC-PRRD (Computer No.934418), dt.12-07-2019 & dt.16-07-2019.

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ORDER:

Article 243G vests powers in the State Legislatures to endow Panchayats with such powers and authority to function as institutions of self-government. As per the 73rd Amendment, AP Government enacted AP Panchayat Raj Act 1994. The Act provides for (i) the creation of three tier system of PRIs - gram panchayat at the village level, Mandal Parishad at the intermediate level and Zilla Panchayat at the district level, with required powers and functions contained in Schedule XI of the Constitution. Panchayats are responsible for preparation of plans and their execution for economic development and social justice related to 29 subjects (Annexure 1).

2. The Hon'ble Chief Minister on number of occasions has declared that the Government is committed to revamp delivery systems in the State with an aim to improve living standards of the people through the concept of **NAVARATHNALU** as core theme of governance. To achieve this objective, Government would establish a system of Village Secretariats consisting of required functional assistants to strengthen Gram panchayats and provide services for every 2000 population in the state.

3. In this connection, the Commissioner, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Tadepalli was requested to work out and send necessary proposals for establishment of village level secretariats in the state.

4. Accordingly, Commissioner, Panchayat Raj submitted a detailed proposal vide reference 12th cited, describing the modalities of Village Secretariats – norms for establishing village secretariats, composition, an estimate of functional assistants/budget required etc., besides stating that multiple intensive inter departmental workshops, meetings etc. on this subject have been conducted at several levels, including the Principal Secretary, the Chief Secretary and the Principal Advisor to Chief Minister to discuss about the modalities for establishing village secretariats.

5. In Andhra Pradesh, vide references 1 to 10 read above, 10 subjects have been transferred to Panchayats. Due to lack of infrastructure and manpower at Gram Panchayat level, the intended objectives to establish a more meaningful local government could not be achieved.

6. **Need for Village Secretariat System**

- i. Restructuring the delivery systems to function as an effective mechanism to deliver services.
- ii. A strong & workable channel for implementation of *NAVARATHNALU*
- iii. Transparency and accountability in delivery of government services to the citizens
- iv. Ensure convergence among departments providing services at village level.

7. The proposal received from the Commissioner, PR&RD was referred to 13 line Departments and Finance and Law Departments for concurrence, consultations and comments. The comments received from line Departments were considered and required modifications were suitably incorporated in the proposal.

8. After careful consideration of the proposal, Government orders to establish Village Secretariats in the State of Andhra Pradesh with the modalities described hereunder.

9. Objectives, *inter alia*, include

- i. To provide various Government / other services at the door steps of Citizens through single window system and ensure delivery of *Navaratnalu*.
- ii. Enable convergence of all line departments that provide services at the Village level
- iii. Preparation and timely implementation of village plans.
- iv. Mapping the field level functionaries with clearly specified roles making them accountable to Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabha with a well-defined Citizen Charter.
- v. Integrate the institution of village volunteers with village secretariat system enabling them to provide citizen services efficiently.

10. **Structure & Composition of Village Secretariats**

- i. The office of Gram Panchayat will be termed as "Village Secretariat".
- ii. Each Village Secretariat will be provided with a Panchayat Secretary who functions as the Secretary/convenor of the Village Secretariat.
- iii. The Village secretariat consisting of Panchayat Secretary & functional assistants shall be responsible to aid & assist Gram Panchayat(s) in performing its functions, while preserving the autonomy of Gram Panchayats.
- iv. Subject to administrative convenience, Functional Assistants working under a Village Secretariat, may cater to the needs of two or more contiguous Village Secretariats.
- v. The Village secretariats shall have such number of functional assistants working under the supervision of the Gram Panchayat, *inter alia* not limited to the list enumerated in Annexure 2.

- vi. Above functions are indicative only and as when required other functions may be added to it.
- vii. All the functionaries at the Village Secretariat shall act as an integrated workforce to deliver multiple services.
- viii. The functionaries will be assigned any other Government work as and when required, even if it does not pertain to their own department.

11. Area of operation of functional assistants

- i. Population unit of about 2000 persons is taken as the base, for provision of services by one team of functional assistants.
- ii. **Rural areas (other than Agency areas)**
 - a. If a Gram panchayat (GP) population is more than 2,000 and less than 4000, the entire GP is considered as one unit and one team of functional assistants will be provided.
 - b. In the case of smaller GPs having less than 2000 population, one team of functional assistants will provide services for one or more Gram panchayats, to cater to the needs of population of about 2000, for administrative convenience.
 - c. In larger Gram Panchayats, additional teams of functional assistants will be provided in proportion to the population.
 - d. Wherever additional teams of functional assistants are proposed in larger Gram Panchayats, the area of operation of additional teams as far as possible will be co-terminus with revenue villages, to enable effective provision of services by Revenue and Survey departments.
- iii. **Hilly & tribal areas**
 - a. In hilly and tribal areas while deploying a team of functional assistants to one or more smaller Village Secretariats, distance and hilly tracts shall be considered and wherever required, population norm of 2000 shall be relaxed, to enable effective delivery of services to tribal population.
- iv. The estimate of district wise Village Secretariat deployed with functional assistants arrived based on above norms is placed at Annexure 3.

12. Preparation of Gram Panchayat Development plans and provision of services by Village Secretariat

- i. The functional assistants of Village Secretariat shall participate in Gram Panchayat meetings and Gram Sabhas to enable convergence of their functioning at Gram Panchayat level.
- ii. Village secretariats shall assist in preparation of Gram Panchayat Development plans for 5 years on the subjects delegated to them from time to time, as per the prescribed procedure.

- iii. The functionaries of the village secretariat shall prepare integrated annual plans using the PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) techniques, duly capturing the felt needs & aspirations of the people, as per the prescribed procedure.
- iv. Village secretariat shall endeavour to provide services pertaining to the subjects delegated to them from time to time, as per well-defined citizen charter, being accountable to Gram Panchayats.

13. Business, office procedure and record maintenance in Village Secretariats

- i. The Village Secretariat shall function according to prescribed business rules and office procedures. These business rules, office procedures and record maintenance systems will be notified separately. The Functional Assistants of line departments will function as per the job chart provided and report to Gram Panchayat.
- ii. The Panchayat Secretary of the village secretariat acts as DDO (Drawing and disbursing officer) and the pay and allowances of all the staff of Village Secretariat will be disbursed by her/him. The honorarium of Village Volunteers also will be paid by the Panchayat Secretary.
- iii. The Casual leave of all the village functionaries will be sanctioned by the Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat.
- iv. The regular Supervisory Officers of the concerned line Departments shall supervise the Functional Assistants in technical aspects.
- v. Earned leave, maintenance of service records and all other service matters of village secretariat staff like promotions and other service matters including disciplinary matters, will be dealt with by the respective line departments under their service rules.

14. Number of functionaries required and process of recruitment

- i. Existing staff of the concerned line department has to be appropriately accommodated to the extent possible.
- ii. The line departments should critically analyse the number of functionaries to be recruited after considering, inter alia, the parameters, such as, potential and requirement of the area, efficient delivery of services, work performed by the existing functionaries, financial prudence, optimum utilization of government work force etc.
- iii. After following the process mentioned in i) & ii) above, the line departments have arrived at no. of functionaries to be recruited which is given in Annexure 2.
- iv. Each line department shall follow their own norms for recruitment and basic minimum qualifications prescribed for a specific post, under their service rules.
- v. For Secretariats having larger population, more number of functional assistants may be deployed by the same Department, if considered necessary, for ensuring efficient and prompt delivery of services.

- vi. The recruitment of secretariat functionaries shall be done in accordance with respective service rules under the supervision of the Committee of Secretaries constituted for this purpose.
- vii. The functionaries recruited initially will be on probation for a period of two years at a consolidated stipend of Rs. 15,000/- per month. There after the concerned Departments will take necessary action as per service rules in force for confirming the probation.
- viii. Where already recruitment process has begun by the APPSC the said process could be utilized, by the concerned department, if considered appropriate.
- ix. A one-time relaxation regarding pre-requirement of framing/amendment service rules before issue of recruitment notifications is given due to urgency, however, the concerned departments should ensure that the necessary amendments to the service rules or framing of new service rules are done immediately.
- x. Committee of Secretaries specifically constituted for this purpose is authorised to finalise various details regarding the recruitment process and procedures, following rules in force.
- xi. PR & RD department, in consultation with concerned departments, is authorised to effect minor modifications regarding number of village secretariats and number of functionaries, if required while implementation.

15. **Trainings**

- i. Induction training for one week at district or zonal level will be given to impart basic knowledge about the functions to be discharged by Functional Assistants of Village Secretariat. General training will be imparted at PR Training Centres Bapatla /Samarlakota / Kalahasthi and other identified appropriate centres to equip the functionaries with following general skills: -
 - Official correspondence
 - Issues dealt by Village Secretariat / Volunteers and redress the grievances as per the department protocol.
 - Computer skills
 - Social and Behavioural change & Communication skills;
 - Work closely with various functionaries to bring in synergy and ensure effective administration at the Secretariat level.
- ii. The line departments will formulate detailed departmental training plans and implement in a phased manner without affecting the field work of the functionaries.

16. Job Chart and Monitoring System:

- i. A clear and comprehensive job chart with suitable business rules shall be put in place.
- ii. The performance of the Functional Assistants shall be reviewed periodically by the Mandal/district level officers concerned and periodically submit the performance appraisal reports.
- iii. Key performance indicators (KPIs) are to be developed for each functionary by the respective line departments. An online monitoring system will be developed by RTGS for effective tracking of the performance of functionaries.
- iv. Establish systems to achieve transparency & efficiency in functioning besides proper checks & balances and supervision for providing corruption free delivery of services.
- v. Line departments shall converge their functioning with Village Secretariats keeping proper linkages with other departments, to act as a single unit of administration.
- vi. Horizontal and Vertical control structure should be properly formulated and made functional. Organic links must be established among various Departments and institutions.

17. Tentative Time lines:

- i. Issue of guidelines for establishment of Secretariats
- ii. Issue of Notification for Village Secretariats.
 - o Determining the number of secretariats
 - o Finalizing designations and number of functionaries
 - o Finalizing Recruitment Criteria & Designation-wise Eligibility Criteria
 - o Legal Verification of Proposals - 19th July to 22st July 2019
- iii. Recruitment of functionaries and issue of appointment letters - 23nd July to 15th Sept 2019
- iv. Training of Functionaries - 16th to 28th Sept 2019
- v. Setting up of Secretariat Office with Furniture, Equipments, etc. - 20th Sept 2019
- vi. Allotment of selected candidates to Village Secretariats - 30th Sept 2019
- vii. Commencement of functioning of Village Secretariats - 2nd Oct 2019

18. The Government directs all the concerned Spl. Chief Secretaries/Prl Secretaries/Separates & HODs, the Commissioner PR & RD and all the District Collectors to take further necessary action in this regard.

19. This order is issued with the concurrence of the Finance Dept vide their UO Note No. U.O.No. FMU0MISC/457/FMU.PR&RD,RWS/2019, Computer No: 935696, dt. 19-07-2019 to provide necessary budget to meet salaries/stipend, infrastructure, recruitment, training for functionaries working in village secretariats.

Annexure 1

1. Agriculture, including agricultural extension
2. Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation
3. Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry
4. Fisheries
5. Fuel and fodder
6. Markets and fairs
7. Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development
8. Small scale industries including food processing industries
9. Khadi, village and cottage industries
10. Rural housing
11. Drinking water
12. Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of communication
13. Rural electrification, including distribution of electricity
14. Poverty alleviation Programme
15. Education, including primary and secondary schools
16. Technical training and vocational education
17. Adult and non-formal education
18. Libraries
19. Cultural activities
20. Health and sanitation, including hospitals, primary health centres and dispensaries
21. Family welfare
22. Women and child development
23. Social welfare, including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded
24. Welfare of the weaker sections, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes
25. Public distribution system
26. Maintenance of community assets
27. Social forestry and farm forestry
28. Minor forest produce
29. Non-conventional energy sources

ANNEXURE-II

Sl. No.	Designation	Functions (Indicative)	Nodal Department to recruit, train, etc.	No. of Secretariats Proposed	No. of functionaries required in Village Secretariats	No. of Sanctioned posts in the Dept.	No. of persons working in the Dept.	No. of vacant posts to be filled	Number of new posts proposed
1	Panchayat Secretary	Convenor of Village Secretariat, Tax collection, Sanitation	Panchayat Raj & Rural Development	11114	11114	13065	7648	5417	--
2	VRO	Land Administration, Civil supplies	Revenue	11114	11114	10216	8426	1790	898
3	Survey Assistant	Land survey, Land Administration	Revenue	11114	11114	--	--	--	11114
4	ANM	Medical & Health	Medical & Health	11114	11114	13866	11666	2200	--
5	Veterinary/Fisheries Assistant	Animal Health, Dairy and Fisheries	Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries	11114	A. 9800 (AHA) B. 750 (MPEA)	-- 250	-- 250	-- --	9800 (1 AHA for 2000 animals (1000 in tribal areas)) 500 (One MPEA for 300 Hectares)
6	Mahila Police and Women & Child Welfare Assistant	Women & Child welfare, Mahila Police, Counselling, Women protection	Home	11114	11114	--	--	--	11114
7	Engineering Assistant	Drinking water & Sanitation, all engineering works	Panchayat Raj & Rural Development	11114	11114	--	--	--	11114

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8	Energy Assistant	Power supply & Street lighting, provide Service connections and coordination with DISCOMs, Renewable energy	Energy	11114	11114	10276	5585	4691	838
9	Agri-culture / Horti-culture MPEOs	Farming services and procurement & Agri-marketing etc	Agriculture/ Horticulture/ Sericulture	11114	5548 (Agri) 4000 (Horti) 400 (Seri)	-- -- --			9948
10	Digital Assistant	Single window system at Village Secretariat and points-man for all gadgets' O & M	Panchayat Raj & Rural Development	11114	11114	--	--	--	11114
11	Welfare & Education Assistant	Pensions/SHGs/all welfare programs/Housing and Education	Social Welfare (TW dept in tribal Areas)	11114	11114	--	--	--	11114
			Totals					14098	77554
			Grand Total						91652

Annexure 3**Indicative list of Village Secretariats deployed with Functional Assistants**

S.No	Name of the District	Number of Mandals	Number of Gram Panchayats	Total population of Village secretariat area	No. of teams of functional assistants
1	Ananthapuram	63	1029	33,69,798	896
2	Chittor	65	1372	35,76,417	1,035
3	East Godavari	62	1072	47,46,324	1,271
4	Guntur	57	1031	35,17,052	866
5	Krishna	49	980	32,92,046	844
6	Kurnool	53	909	32,89,858	879
7	Nellore	46	940	23,07,113	665
8	Prakasam	56	1038	31,41,600	877
9	Srikakulam	38	1148	27,14,455	835
10	Visakhapatnam	39	925	26,77,823	719
11	Vizianagaram	34	921	21,84,561	664
12	<i>West Godavari</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>909</i>	<i>36,70,165</i>	<i>931</i>
13	<i>YSR Kadapa</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>791</i>	<i>22,57,099</i>	<i>632</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>13065</i>	<i>4,07,44,311</i>	<i>11,114</i>

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI,
Principal Secretary to Government.

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